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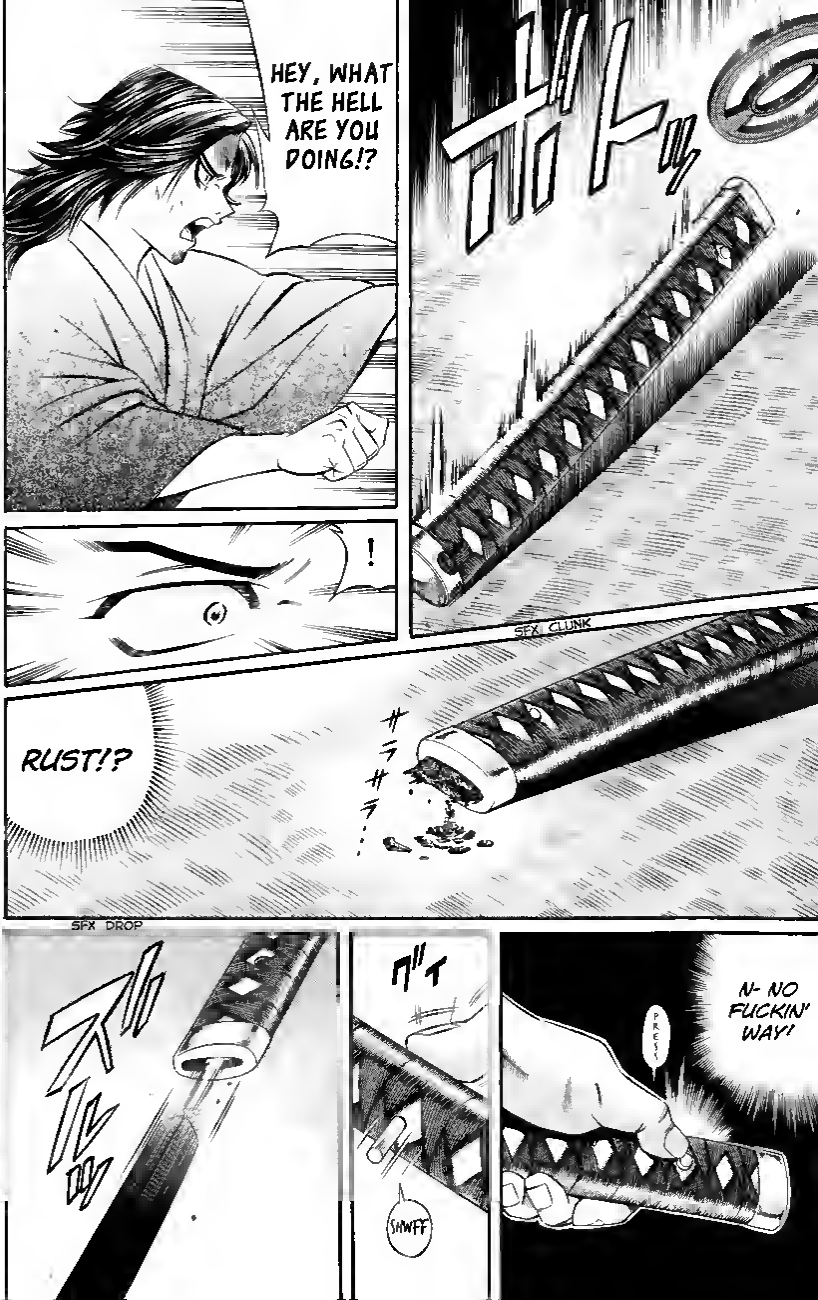
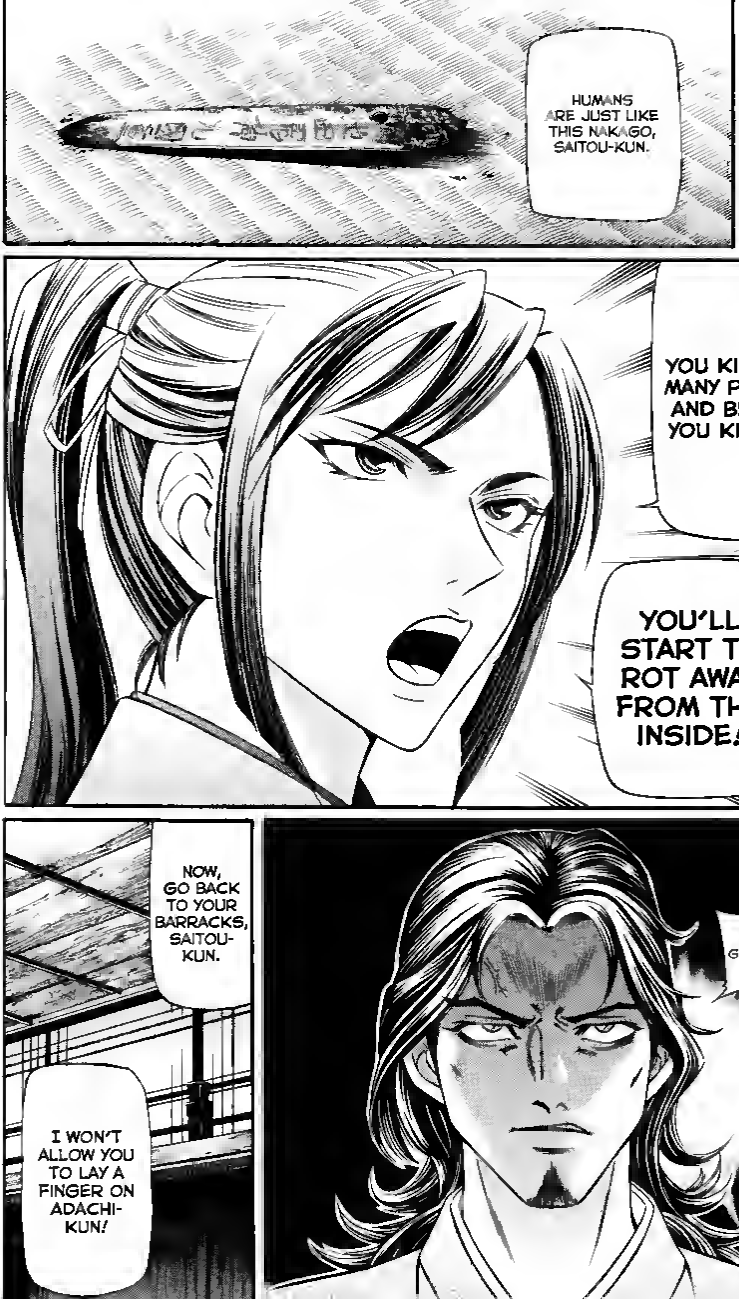
CHAPTER 8: THE TRUE FEELINGS OF A BAKUMATSU GIRL

FOR MY OWN GOOD?
YOU CUT DOWN PEOPLE FAR TOO THOUGHT-LESSLY!
...YOU DON'T QUITE UNDERSTAND, DO YOU?
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, SAITOU-KUN!
GLANCE
THAT SWORD THAT CAME FLYING OUT AFTER ADACHI-KUN TOOK OUT THE FLOOR IS YOURS, ISN'T IT?
THE INFAMOUS KIJINMARU KUNISHIGE.

...
SFX: CRACK
YAHH!


HEY, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
SFX CLUNK
!
RUST!?
SFX DROP
SHWFF
N- NO FUCKIN' WAY!

WHA - WHAT IS THIS!?
KATANA
THE NAKAGO* IS COMPLETELY ROTTING AWAY!
*NAKAGO → THE BOTTOM PART OF THE KATANA ENCASED IN THE HILT.
THE RUST ACCUMULATED WHEN THE BLOOD OF HIS VICTIMS TRAVELED DOWN THE LENGTH OF HIS SWORD AND POOLED AT THE BOTTOM.
BUT FOR THE NAKAGO TO BE CORRODING AWAY... JUST HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS HE KILLED ..?
NAKAGO
...
WH- WHAT THE HELL!? HOW'D THAT HAPPEN!?


HUMANS ARE JUST LIKE THIS NAKAGO, SAITOU-KUN.
YOU KILL TOO MANY PEOPLE, AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT,
YOU'LL START TO ROT AWAY FROM THE INSIDE!
NOW, GO BACK TO YOUR BARRACKS, SAITOU-KUN.
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO LAY A FINGER ON ADACHI-KUN!
GUH

!
WE'RE GOING TO PROPERLY BURY THE MEN YOU'VE KILLED TODAY.
AND TELL YOUR SQUAD MEMBERS TO PREPARE FOUR CASKETS.
SFX: GLARE
YOU COULD'VE ALMOST BEEN THE FIFTH CASKET, ADACHI.
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN AGAIN SOMETIME.
OH MAN.
TH- THIS IS RIDICULOUS! THAT GUY'S TOTALLY GOING TO COME BACK FOR REVENGE!
Y- YAMANAMI-SAN! YOU'RE ONE OF THE HIGHER-UPS IN THE SHINSENGUMI, RIGHT?

I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU MUST FEEL.
IT IS INDEED EMBARRASSING.
FOR FUCK'S SAKE, I'M NOT SOME HOUSE PET!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON! YOU GUYS RANDOMLY RECRUIT ME, AND THEN SOME GUY TRIES TO KILL ME!
YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION TO LEAVE.
VERY WELL THEN. IF YOU WISH TO QUIT THE SHINSENGUMI, YOU DON'T HAVE TO EVER COME BACK.
I SENSE GREAT POTENTIAL IN YOU.
BUT IN A GROUP OF MERCILESS KILLERS AND HUNTERS, YOU, WHO HATES VIOLENCE AND BLOOD,
WAIT, REALLY!?

DOES SHE THINK SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT IS GOING TO CHANGE MY MIND...
"I SENSE GREAT POTENTIAL IN YOU?"
but I might kind of like her.
FARE-WELL THEN, ADACHI-KUN.
AND THEN I SORT OF GOT SCOUTED...
WELL I KIND OF ACCIDENTALLY SAVED THIS KONDOU GUY'S ASS.
HEY, WHY DID THOSE SHINSENGUMI GUYS KNOW YOU?
HUH?
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT THE SHINSENGUMI WAS?
HUH? I DUNNO, I THINK THEY WERE LIKE GUARDIAN ANGELS THAT PATROLLED AROUND KYOTO OR SOMETHING...

THE SHINSENGUMI'S JOB WAS TO KILL ANYONE WHO OPPOSED TO THE BAKUFU GOVERNMENT!
WHAT ARE YOU BABBLING ON ABOUT, LOOK AT ALL THESE CORPSES THEY LEFT BEHIND!
THEY WERE A SQUAD OF PROFESSIONAL KILLERS, ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL FROM A SLOB LIKE YOU!
IT'S SAID THAT THE SHINSENGUMI'S INTERNAL EXECUTION COUNT WAS HIGHER THAN THE NUMBER OF ENEMIES THEY KILLED ON THE BATTLEFIELD!
AND EVEN SCARIER WAS THE WAY THEY HANDLED THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS!
ANYBODY WHO BROKE HIJIKATA TOSHIZOU'S SET OF RULES WAS IMMEDIATELY EXECUTED!
YOU CAN'T, MUSTN'T GO HOME! YOU'LL DEFINITELY END UP DEAD!
AND I HEAR THAT SAITOU HAJIME'S ALREADY GOT A LOCK ON YOU!
OKAY, I GOT IT.
WAS I JUST SCOUTED INTO A CERTAIN-DEATH ORGANIZATION!?
WHAT THE FU-UUUUC-CCCKK-KKK?

ABOUT THAT, TAKE A LOOK AT THIS, REN-CHAN.

SCHFF

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE THAT TO TRAVEL BACK INTO THE FUTURE!

HEY, MORE IMPORTANTLY, DO YOU STILL HAVE THAT BILL WITH YOU?

WH-WHAT IS THIS?

MY FACE IS FADING AWAY.

SFX: DASH

Y-YEAH!

ドドドドッ

SINCE THERE'S STILL A BIT OF YOUR PICTURE STILL VISIBLE, LET'S TRY TAKING IT BACK TO THE BRIDGE!

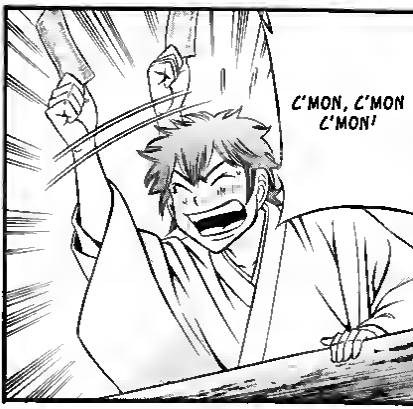
MAYBE THE WATER WILL REACT TO THE BILL AGAIN, OPENING A GATEWAY LEADING BACK INTO OUR OWN TIME!

H-HEY, WHAT'D YA RECKON THIS MEANS?

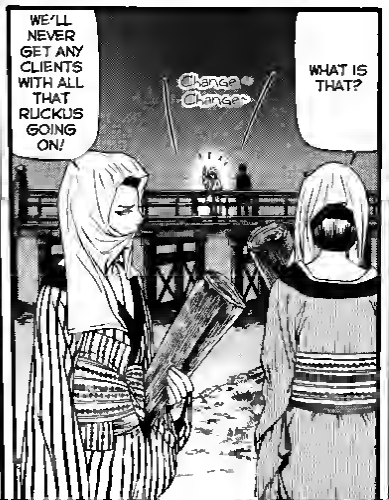
Even though my presence was fading in our time too

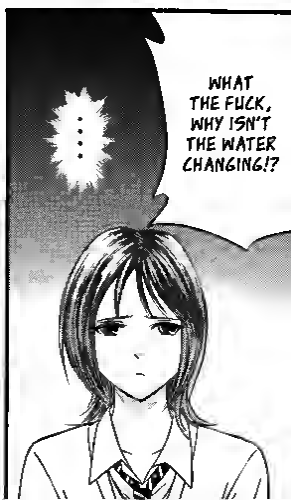
...

OPPE-EENNN, STAR-GAAAT-TTEEE!
Chen and sesame


C'MON, C'MON C'MON!

GOD DAMMIT!!


WE'LL NEVER GET ANY CLIENTS WITH ALL THAT RUCKUS GOING ON!
Change Change
WHAT IS THAT?


WHAT THE FUCK, WHY ISN'T THE WATER CHANGING!?

!
NO WAY.
REN-CHAN, MAYBE IT'LL WORK IF WE JUST JUMP IN!
THIS JUST ISN'T POSSIBLE, MAKOTO.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME THAT EASILY.
I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING TO BE IN A HISTORY TEXTBOOK!
OI, FAKE BILL! I DON'T REMEMBER ASKING FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
WELL, I'M DEFINITELY NOT GIVING UP!
I JUST WANTED TO BECOME A CLASSROOM HERO AND BE POPULAR.

WE SHOULD DECIDE ON WHAT TO DO FROM HERE ON THOUGH.
HEY,
WE'LL BE ABLE TO GO HOME EVENTU-ALLY!
GET A GRIP OF YOURSELF!
I HAVEN'T EATEN FOR TWO DAYS,
WE HAVE TO FIND CLOTHES AND A PLACE TO SLEEP,
AND WE HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY, TOO.
I JUST WANNA GO HOME!
WE DON'T BELONG IN THE BAKU-MATSU ERA!
THERE'S FOOD AND BEDS THERE!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!
SHUT THE FUCK UP!!

GIVE ME A BREAK ALREADY!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!
SFX: SHUDDER
WHOSE FAULT DO YOU THINK IT IS THAT I'M HERE!
ALL YOU DO IS TALK ABOUT YOURSELF!
I'M
REALLY WORRIED TOO, YOU KNOW.
DRIP

AT LEAST HELP ME OUT A LITTLE IF YOU'RE A REAL MAN!
WHA-
ER
I...

I-I'M SORRY.
FOR BEING SO UNRELI-ABLE
REN-CHAN LOOKS REALLY CALM AND COLLECTED ON THE OUTSIDE,
BUT IN REALITY, SHE'S SO WORRIED SHE'S ABOUT TO EXPLODE ..
THUD
WHA-
W-WHAT'S GOING ON? SO PASSIONATE...

SHE HAS A HIGH FEVER!!
WAIT, HOLD ON....
RE-REN-CHAN!!